

Sherman 2001-0025CIP-1

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DEC 26 2006

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Cervello et al, US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071448 in view of Jayaraman, US Patent 6,963,549. The Examiner asserts that Cervello et al teach (a) method for spoofing stations, (b) setting a duration value to other than a time period for a predetermined subsequent message, (c) sending a signal containing the duration value, and (c) an obeying station that updates a network allocation vector in accordance with the duration value. The Examiner states that Cervello et al is silent regarding the notion that the duration value represents a time period for suppressing transmissions by the obeying station, but asserts that the Jayaraman reference teaches this limitation. Applicants again disagree; particularly relative to Cervello et al.

It is perfectly clear that the Cervello et al reference has a network allocation vector, and a separate overlapping network allocation vector (ONAV). See, for example, claim 1 of Cervello et al, which specifies

means for providing overlapping network allocation vectors (ONAV) in addition to a network allocation vector (NAV)...

Based on the above, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, but in order to advance prosecution, claim 4 is amended herein to more clearly define the invention, specifying that the NAV register of the inventive arrangement is the sole register within a station that controls duration during which the stations refrains from transmitting.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Dated: 12/26/06Respectfully,
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